

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

transmitting a media playback invite request received from a first host terminal to a second guest terminal, ~~wherein the first terminal is associated with a host user and the second terminal is associated with guest user, and wherein the media playback invite request is for a playback session of a media file~~ includes a playback option enabling the guest terminal to request different types of actions;

relaying a media playback accept response from the second guest terminal to the first host terminal; ~~wherein if the second terminal does not have the media file, the second terminal downloads the media file before sending the media playback accept response; and~~

distributing a start playback request from the first host terminal to the second guest terminal, wherein the start playback request directs the second guest terminal to begin a playback session of ~~the a~~ a media file in synchronization with a beginning of the playback session at the first host terminal;

receiving an action request from the guest terminal, wherein the action request includes the playback option; and

sending the playback option received from the guest terminal to the host terminal.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

~~distributing an the action request between the first terminal and the second~~ to another terminal during the playback session.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

verifying permissions associated with ~~the first terminal or the second guest~~ terminal, ~~before distributing an action request~~ wherein the sending of the playback option received from the guest terminal to the host terminal is responsive to verifying the permissions associated with the guest terminal.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the action request is selected from the group consisting of a rewind request, a pause playback request, a fast forward request, a textual comment request, and a user-specified internal effect algorithm to modify audio or video of the media file.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

distributing a stop playback request from the first host terminal to the second guest terminal in response to ~~the~~ a host terminal user terminating the playback session.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

storing an internal time in response to distributing ~~a~~ the start playback request; and
providing an elapsed time ~~since distributing the start playback request, to a third~~ a second guest terminal when the ~~third second guest~~ terminal joins the playback session during the playback session.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a first internal time from the first host terminal or the second guest terminal, wherein the first internal time is derived from a global time;

comparing the first internal time to a second internal time in order to derive a time difference, wherein the second internal time is derived from the global time; and

adjusting transmission of a subsequent message to the first host terminal or the second guest terminal.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a stop playback request from the second guest terminal in response to ~~the~~ a guest terminal user withdrawing from the playback session; and

removing a session entry that is associated with the second guest terminal, wherein the session entry indicates participation of the second guest terminal in the playback session.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a stop playback request from the firsthost terminal in response to the a host terminal user ending the playback session; and
terminating the playback session in response to receiving ~~a~~ the stop playback request.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

instructing the secondguest terminal to modify the media file in accordance with a modification file during the playback session.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium, ~~containing instructions for controlling a computer system to perform a method comprising instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to perform:~~

transmitting a media playback invite request received from a firsthost terminal to a secondguest terminal, ~~wherein the first terminal is associated with a host user and the second terminal is associated with guest user, and wherein the media playback invite request is for a playback session of a media file~~ includes a playback option enabling the guest terminal to request different types of actions;

relaying a media playback accept response from the secondguest terminal to the firsthost terminal; ~~wherein if the second terminal does not have the media file, the second terminal downloads the media file before sending the media playback accept response; and~~

distributing a start playback request from the firsthost terminal to the secondguest terminal, wherein the start playback request directs the secondguest terminal to begin a playback session of ~~the a~~ a media file in synchronization with a beginning of the playback session at the firsthost terminal;

receiving an action request from the guest terminal, wherein the action request includes the playback option; and

sending the playback option received from the guest terminal to the host terminal.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 11, further ~~containing comprising instructions that, when executed, cause for controlling the computer system to~~ perform:

distributing ~~an~~ the action request ~~between the first terminal and the second~~ to another terminal during the playback session.

13. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 11, further ~~containing comprising instructions that, when executed, cause for controlling~~ the computer system to perform:

distributing a stop playback request from the ~~first~~ host terminal to the ~~second~~ guest terminal and at least one other terminal in response to the a host terminal user terminating the playback session.

14. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

sending a media playback invite request ~~for a playback session of a media file to a guest~~ terminal in response to a host terminal user initiating an invitation to a guest terminal user, wherein the ~~guest media playback invite request includes a playback option enabling the guest~~ terminal to request different types of actions ~~user is associated with the terminal;~~

receiving a media playback accept response from the guest terminal in response to sending the media playback invite request; ~~wherein if the terminal does not have the media file, the terminal downloads the media file before sending the media playback accept response; and~~

in response to receiving a media playback accept response, sending a start playback request to the guest terminal, wherein the start playback request begins a playback session of ~~the a media file in synchronization with the host user;~~

receiving an action request from the guest terminal, wherein the action request includes the playback option; and

modifying the playback session of the media file in response to the action request.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

sending an action request to the guest terminal, in response to the host terminal user initiating the action request.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

receiving ~~an~~ the action request from the ~~other-guest~~ terminal, in response to the guest terminal user initiating the action request.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 or claim 16, wherein the action request from the guest terminal is selected from the group consisting of a rewind request, a pause playback request, a fast forward request, a textual comment, and a request for a user-specified internal effect algorithm to modify audio or video of the media file.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

sending a stop playback request to the ~~other-guest~~ terminal in response to the host terminal user terminating the playback session.

19. (Original) The method according to any of the claims 14, 15, 16 or 18, wherein the requests are processed through a server.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the sending requests of the media playback invite request to the guest terminal, the sending of the start playback request to the guest terminal, and the receiving a response of the media playback accept response from the guest terminal, and the receiving of the action request from the guest terminal are performed utilizing a wireless communications channel.

21. (Withdrawn) A method in a terminal for displaying information about a synchronous media playback service, comprising:

displaying a list of media files, wherein a selection is received from a host user; and
displaying a list of guest users, wherein at least one selection is received from the host user.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

displaying a list of playback options, from which a playback option is received from the host user.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium, ~~containing comprising~~ instructions that, when executed, cause ~~for controlling a computer system a device~~ to perform a method comprising:

 sending a media playback invite request ~~for a playback session of a media file to a guest terminal in response to a host terminal user initiating an invitation to a guest terminal user,~~ wherein the ~~guest user is associated with the terminal~~ media playback invite request includes a playback option enabling the guest terminal to request different types of actions;

 receiving a media playback accept response from the guest terminal in response to sending the media playback invite request; ~~wherein if the terminal does not have the media file, the terminal downloads the media file before sending the media playback accept response; and~~

 sending a start playback request to the guest terminal in response to receiving the media playback accept response, wherein the start playback request begins a playback session of ~~the a~~ media file ~~in synchronization with the host user;~~

receiving an action request from the guest terminal, wherein the action request includes the playback option; and

modifying the playback session of the media file in response to the action request.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, further ~~containing comprising~~ instructions that, when executed, cause ~~for controlling the computer system device~~ to perform:

 sending an action request to the guest terminal, in response to the host terminal user initiating the request.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, ~~further containing instructions for controlling the computer system to perform:~~

~~receiving an action request from the terminal, wherein the action request is received responsive in response to the guest terminal user initiating the action request.~~

26. (Withdrawn) A terminal providing synchronous media playback service for a host user, the terminal comprising:

 a services processor;

a communications interface connected to the services processor in order to support a playback session between the terminal and a second terminal, wherein the second terminal is associated with a guest user;

a local storage that stores a media file, wherein the media file is associated with the playback session;

a media player connected to the local storage in order to process the media file during the playback session under control of the services processor;

a keypad unit connected to the services processor; and

a display unit connected to the keypad unit through the services processor, wherein the display unit provides at least one list of choices that is associated with the playback session and wherein the keypad unit receives selections from the host user.

27. (Withdrawn) The terminal of claim 26, wherein the communications interface supports a wireless communications channel.

28. (Withdrawn) The terminal of claim 27, wherein the wireless communications channel is in accordance with specifications selected from the group of standards consisting of Global System of Mobile Communications (GSM), Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) IS-95 and cdma2000 (CDMA), TIA IS-136 and IS-54 (TDMA), EIA/TIA-553 (analog), Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB), Digital video Broadcasting (DVB), and Universal Mobile Telecommunications system (UMTS).

29. (Withdrawn) The terminal of claim 26, wherein the media file is selected from the group consisting of an audio media file, a video media file, and an audio-video media file.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the media file is locally stored on the ~~second~~guest terminal for playback.

31. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the media file is locally stored on the ~~second~~guest terminal for playback.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the media file is locally stored on the guest terminal for playback.

33. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the media file is locally stored on the guest terminal for playback.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

~~a communications interface;~~

~~a media player;~~

a processor; and

memory storing computer-executable instructions that, when executed, perform

~~initiating receiving at the apparatus a media playback invitation to a terminal from~~
a server, wherein the media playback invitation is for a playback session of a media file, and
~~wherein the media playback invitation includes a playback option enabling the apparatus to~~
request different types of actions;

~~receiving in response responsive to receiving the media playback invitation,~~
transmitting a media playback accept response from the terminal to the server, wherein if the
terminal apparatus does not have the media file, the terminal apparatus downloads the media file
before sending transmitting the media playback accept response; and

~~in response to receiving the media playback accept response, sending~~receiving at
the apparatus a start playback request to the terminal, wherein the start playback request begins a
playback session of the media file in synchronization with a beginning of the playback session at
the apparatus terminal; and

~~subsequent to receiving the start playback request, transmitting an action request~~
to the server, wherein the action request includes the playback option.

37. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a host terminal for initiating a media playback invitation and, in response to an accept response, sending a start playback request to begin a playback session of a media file in synchronization with the host terminal;

a guest terminal for accepting the media playback invitation from the host terminal, ~~and for downloading the media file~~ wherein the guest terminal is configured to download the media file when the guest terminal does not have the media file, and wherein the guest terminal is configured to transmit an accept response after downloading the media file if necessary, and wherein the guest terminal is configured to beginning a playback session of the media file in synchronization with a beginning of the playback session at the host terminal; and

a central server for transmitting the media playback invitation, the accept response, and the start playback request between the terminals.

38. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the processor utilizes ~~the a~~ communications interface to communicate to ~~a central~~ the server, wherein the ~~central~~ server receives and forwards invitations and responses between the apparatus and the terminal.

39. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the processor includes computer executable instructions to perform:

~~instructing the terminal to modify~~ modifying the media file in accordance with a modification file during the playback session.

40. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein if the guest terminal does not have the media file, the guest terminal downloads the media file before sending the media playback accept response.

41. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 11, further comprising instructions that, when executed, cause the computer to perform:

verifying permissions associated with the guest terminal, and

wherein the sending of the playback option received from the guest terminal to the host terminal is responsive to verifying the permissions associated with the guest terminal.